

## Winter 2018 Project Update

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*Aerial view of project progress at the I-75/I-285 Interchange*





*Chandler Ford, NWC Technical Coordinator, and Georgia DOT Project Manager, Stephen Lively, at the I-75/I-285 interchange.*

## Meet the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes Team: Chandler Ford

Chandler Ford plays an important role to the NWC project's success as the Project Technical Coordinator. A member of the team since summer of 2015, Chandler maintains all project photo and video documentation, cataloging project media as well as performing erosion and traffic control inspections.

**Q. What makes the NWC project unique from other projects you have worked on?**

A. This is actually my first job in the construction industry, so it has been an excellent learning experience. The scale of the project and the amount built in the few years I've been here is incredible. When I started, it seemed like a ton of separate construction sites, and now the whole project is essentially drivable (construction vehicles only!) from end to end.

**Q. What do you like best about the project?**

A. I love the variety that the NWC project has to offer from a construction standpoint. Being new to the construction industry, I had a lot to learn, and this project has given

me a taste of so many different aspects of roadway design. The learning opportunities have been endless. For commuters, I think it's incredible that the lanes are reversible. The limited amount of space on the corridor makes this the perfect solution.

**Q. What do you like to do when you're not working on the project?**

A. I love anything outdoors, but especially rock climbing. I love the physical challenge and seeing beautiful places from up high. Which also explains why I like the tall bridges on the NWC!

**Q. How do you think the NWC Express Lanes will benefit the commuting public?**

A. The addition of another option for drivers is a huge benefit. So many people in Atlanta have to drive to work, and on the worst traffic days the option of taking back roads can be maddening. Even for those who don't use them every day, being able to hop on when you really need to be somewhere will save a lot of people time and sanity.

## Northwest Corridor Project Progress: Nearing the Home Stretch!



*Looking north on I-75 towards Windy Hill Road, construction crews prepare the Express Lanes bridge over I-75 southbound for a bridge deck pour.*

The NWC project is now over 90% complete - with only half a year of construction left! Motorists should expect to see construction activities speeding up as the work zone narrows in on the I-285/I-75 area, where you can find the bulk of remaining activities. Watch out for construction equipment and crews at these locations:

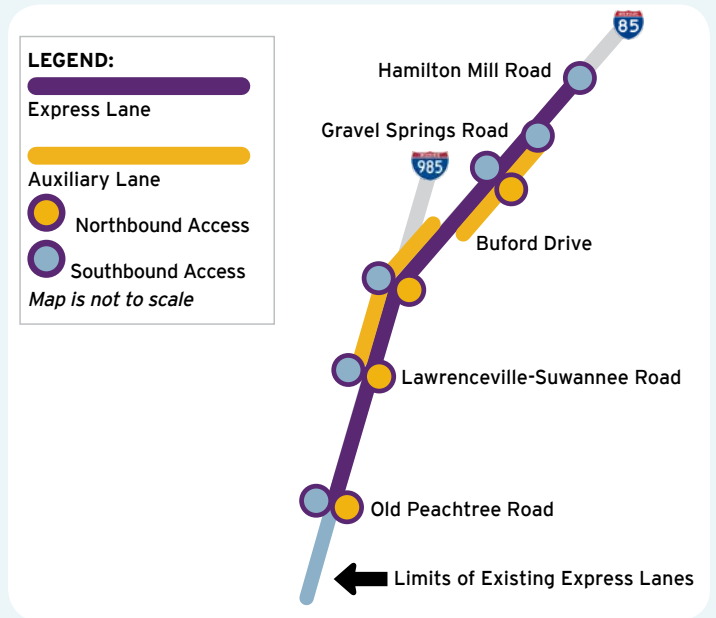
- I-75 median from Cumberland Boulevard to north of the I-75/I-285 interchange
- I-285 eastbound and westbound near the I-75/I-285 interchange
- I-75 southbound between North Marietta Parkway and the I-75/I-285 interchange
- Bridge superstructure activities from north of Windy Hill Road to the I-75/I-285 interchange
- Toll point testing throughout the Express Lane limits



## I-85 Extension: More Express Lanes in 2018

In addition to the NWC Express Lanes, Georgia DOT will be opening the I-85 Express Lanes Extension in 2018.

The I-85 Express Lanes Extension is part of a network of new optional toll lanes designed to improve mobility and provide more reliable trip times throughout Metro Atlanta. Currently under construction, this project will add 10 miles of managed lanes north of the existing I-85 Express Lanes in Gwinnett County. [Click here](#) for more information about this project.



New beams arrive on site at the I-85/I-985 juncture.

## Northwest Corridor by the Numbers

**30**

Miles of New Reversible  
Express Lanes



**39**

Bridges



**6**

New Express Lane  
Interchanges on I-75



**68**

Retaining Walls



**GEORGIA**  
*Express Lanes*  
Northwest Corridor

By the  
**Numbers**

**60**

Sound Barriers



**90**

Percent complete  
as of February 2018



**3**

New Express Lane  
Access Points on I-575



**5,971**

Feet - Georgia's  
Longest Land Bridge

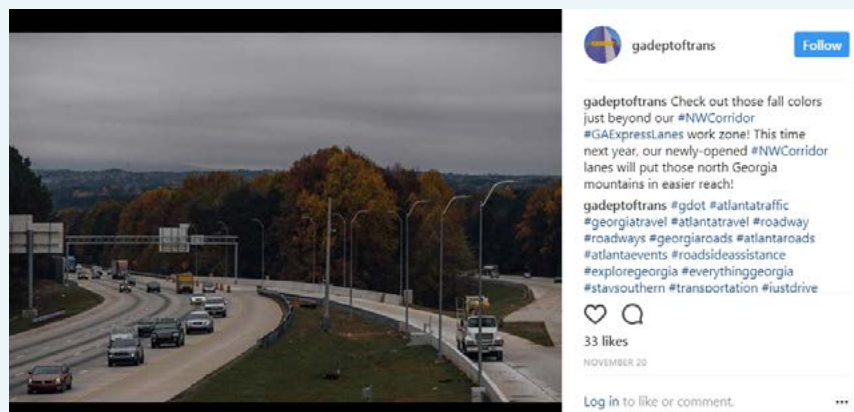


<http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC>



## NWC Social Media Round-up

Check it out: a few NWC social media posts from recent weeks!



Are we in your feed? Follow Georgia DOT on Facebook Twitter, and Instagram to stay up to date on our progress.

[www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT](https://www.facebook.com/GeorgiaDOT)

[www.twitter.com/gadeptoftrans](https://www.twitter.com/gadeptoftrans)

[www.instagram.com/gadeptoftrans](https://www.instagram.com/gadeptoftrans)

# Winter Weather: Why Bridges Freeze First and Safety Tips

## Curious Why Bridges Freeze First?

With so many bridges on the NWC Express Lanes, it is important to remember that a bridge will freeze sooner than the general roadway. But why?

When cold air surrounds a bridge, it begins to lose heat from above and below. Roads, on the other hand, only lose heat from the surface. Since bridges have no way to trap heat, they will ice rapidly as soon as temperatures drop to freezing.

Please keep the following safety tips in mind when driving in cold weather:

- Beware of black ice (especially on bridges and overpasses) and watch for fallen trees or power lines.
- Avoid driving unless absolutely necessary or postpone until daylight when road conditions (such as black ice) may be visible.
- Do not pass a Georgia DOT dump truck spreading salt/gravel; gravel may kick up and could break car windows. Follow these vehicles at a distance of at least 100 feet.
- Be aware of Georgia DOT work crews who clear snow and ice from interstates and state routes.
- Slow down to at least half of the normal speed limit and drive in low gear.
- Treat a non-working traffic signal as a four-way stop.

For more driving tips and winter safety advisories, [click here](#).



## Before and After Photo Gallery: Check out the progress made in the past year!



Above: Northbound view of I-75 at Windy Ridge Parkway where the Express Lanes will travel over I-75 southbound lanes.





Above: A section of an Express Lanes bridge near Bells Ferry Road on I-75.



Above: Eastbound view of the newly constructed Hickory Grove Road bridge over I-75. This bridge will allow local access to the Express Lanes from Hickory Grove Road.



Above: Excavation and paving operations at the I-75/I-575 interchange.

## Stay Connected!

To learn more about the Northwest Corridor Express Lanes project or receive regular construction and traffic interruption updates, please visit: [www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC](http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL/NWC)

Questions? Call us: 678-486-3767 | email: [northwestcorridor@dot.ga.gov](mailto:northwestcorridor@dot.ga.gov)

For regular project updates visit: <http://www.dot.ga.gov/DS/GEL>

Find Georgia DOT on Facebook and Twitter:

